

FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MEMORANDUM & MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2008 @ 9:00 A.M

Those Present:	County Commissioners:	Tom Wilson	Eric Roberts	Don VonderMeulen
	County Auditor:	Susan A Jones		
	Commissioners Secretary:	Carol Westerman		

Tom Wilson opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

WEEKLY
REPORT

Susan Jones, Auditor reported that the real estate values are balanced and the next step is to put on the property tax exemptions, our goal is to certify values as soon as possible. Rebecca Oglesby, County Treasurer reported she had attended the Treasurer’s Conference on Tuesday, March 4th, the DLGF reported that they are working on a comparison report that is to replace the tax bill. It was said there would not be a May 10th tax deadline this year; the earliest would possibly be July 10th. There are four counties in the state that have certified their assessed values. With all the changes that the state wants to implement, it will take the software companies some time to write the new programs.

SNOW EMERGENCY
ORDINANCE 2008-05

An Ordinance Establishing Classifications of Transportation Emergencies; Regulating the Operation and Parking of Motor Vehicles during Transportation Emergencies; Actions required of Utility Companies to remove damaged Utility System Components from Roadway; and Establishment of Fines/Penalties for Violation of this Ordinance. (This Ordinance would replace Ordinance 2007-24). Tom Wilson read the different levels for clarification.

Level 1 – County roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Roads may also be icy. Driving should be caution.

Level 2 – County roadways are hazardous with blowing and drifting snow. Only those who feel it is necessary to drive should be using county roadways. Employees should contact their employers to determine whether or not to report to work.

Level 3 – All county roadways are closed to non-emergency personal. No one should be using county roadways unless it absolutely necessary to travel. All employees should contact their employers to determine if they should report to work. Those traveling on county roadways may subject themselves to fines, penalties, other prosecution.

Tom Wilson motioned to pass Ordinance 2008-05. Don VonderMeulen seconded. Eric Roberts, All in favor. Motion carried.

HEPNER
ROAD

Marty Brunner, Property Owner at the end of Hepner Road is requesting the Commissioners to extend/upgrade Hepner Road 350 feet. The farm had once been a working Christmas tree farm. Joe Gillespie, County Surveyor explained the County had stopped maintenance on the road, at the time there was no one living in the house. The road is a public way, once a public way always a public way. As the property is now it is allows one building site, but if property is divided or changed, would not be able to get building permit, as the road is now. Mr. Brunner would provide a 30 foot right-of-way to access public roadway, he then could acquire two building lots. Tom Wilson asked that they take under advisement and discuss.

STAVETOWN
DRAINAGE
AREA

Joe Gillespie, County Surveyor had asked for meeting to discuss the Stavetown Drainage Area. Talked to Dick Schmid this past Wednesday and talked to Rene Stivers, Sam Schuck and Kurt Riedman of the Town of Brookville. Joe had also, talked to Fayette Memorial Hospital Representatives, who are working with the Immediate Care Expansion Project. With all the rain this past week Dick Schmid’s Property had flooded again. Joe had done a drainage calculation, in order to funnel the water past Schmid’s Property, would need to install a 42-inch pipe. Dick Schmid said the culvert under the County Road has collapsed.

Joe reported there is another issue that needs to resolved. There is standing water that Joe Meier, County Sanitarian has tested (3) times. It has tested e-coli, but within limits of water at a public beach. Dick Schmid feels someone’s drain or septic is being dumped on a controlled release, its worse when it floods, then we are flooded with sewage. Tom Wilson and Eric Roberts asked Kurt Riedman if he could work with Joe Meier to find out where it is coming from, it’s gray water. Kurt said he has a good idea, but it’s not septic, all the trailer parks sewage is hooked onto the Towns Septic. Rene Stivers said they are willing to help correct this problem, but will need to talk to the Board of a decision. Eric asked that Joe talk to the Hospital to see if they would be willing to purchase the materials for the proposed project.

HIGHWAY ENGINEER
WEEKLY REPORT

RAILFENCE ROAD BRIDGE 110 & 111 – George Hartman, Highway Engineer reported that he had talked to Steve Flores, Project Manager for INDOT about the Railfence Bridge Project. He had informed him that everything has been completed required as of this time to advance the project to bid letting. The Right of Way Acquisition has been completed, final contract plans have been submitted by Howard J Barth & Associates and information has been submitted to Bob Windslow regarding consultants responding to our request for proposals for Construction Engineering Services. George had told Mr. Flores that the County wants to have the bid letting date set earlier than September 2008. Mr. Flores said it is possible to schedule the bid letting before September; he had not had time to review plans, but will proceed with plan review when he gets caught up with other work.

FRANKLIN COUNTY HISTORIC BRIDGES – George presented a letter he had prepared for the Commissioners signatures and a spreadsheet providing information requested in the letter from INDOT on February 20, 2008. The Bridge included in the Historic Bridge Inventory are Enochsburg Covered Bridge 73, Snow Hill Covered Bridge 102, Harvey Branch Stone Arch Bridge78, Pipe Creek Steel Truss Bridge 48 and County Line Stone Arch Bridge 140, which is maintained by Decatur County and in their bridge inventory as Bridge 80.

Don VonderMeulen made motion to sign letter for the Historic Bridge Inventory. Tom Wilson seconds. Eric Roberts, All in Favor. Motion carried.

PIPE CREEK BRIGE 48 – The Field Check meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 10:00A.M. at the project site. George had also presented a copy of a letter sent to the State Historic Preservation with DNR regarding the Section 106 effect finding. In anticipation of an “Adverse Effect” Finding by FHWA, it is suggested that the mitigation could be a photographic documentation.

BRIDGE INSPECTION PHASE I (2006) – George reported that Kevin Loiselle of Farrar, Garvey & Associates that INDOT had provided the Notice to Proceed to INDOT’s Consultant that they can proceed with Fracture Critical Inspection of the pin and hanger details on Fairfield/Causeway Bridge 144 over Brookville Reservoir. Tom Wilson asked who is going to pay for repairs. George said he only thing he knows is to get with the Army Corp of Engineers. A letter had been sent to the Corp earlier, with no response. Need to have Gene Stewart, County Attorney sent a letter.

POSTING OF SIGNS – George reported that all required bridge postings for weight limits, advance warning and one lane bridge signs must be posted as soon as possible. Photo documentation must be provided to Farrar & Garvey so they can finalize the bridge report and submit to INDOT. Todd Zellers of Stello Signs reported he had received the order just last week. Mr. Zellers said he would work on getting the signs to the County as soon as possible. Don VonderMeulen asked if it would help to send a truck to pick up the signs instead of sending them to us. Todd said that would save you a couple of days, he will let Hollie know when they would be available for pick up.

Tom Wilson asked Mr. Zellers about the price of signs for next year, for the sign improvement project. Mr. Zellers said that is why he is here today, and he would honor the bid price again for next year.

ROCKIES EXPRESS PIPELINE – George had presented a packet of information that he had received from Rockies Express Pipeline identifying crossings of where the County Roads are to be cut. George reported that there are 31 crossing, asked how do you want to proceed with the permitting process. The Project is due to be start in June of next year. Rex has also submitted documentation to support to not use casing around pipe that cross under roads or railways. The carrier pipe casting and cathodic protection perform better without a steel case pipe. We may be able to recommend a greater depth of cover, heavier wall thickness and permanent utility markers on each side of road crossing.

Eric Roberts asked if we should contact the Army Corp of Engineers regarding the REX Pipeline and crossing under the Whitewater River, in the event of a blast with regards to the Dam. Asking them if they know the scope of the project. Don asked if we should meet to discuss strategy for the REX Pipeline Hearing on March 19th. It is recommended we meet at 1:00 P.M. on March 17th, that Steve Roemer, of Hoosier Hills, Franklin County Water Association, Joe Gillespie, Larry Franzman, Gene Stewart and County Highway Road Foremen’s. Need to get project outline from Larry.

CULVERT TRAINING RESCHEDULED – Due to the Snow Emergency this past Friday, the training has been rescheduled to Friday, March 14th. At 11:00 A.M. at the Government Center.

MINUTES	Don VonderMeulen made motion to approve Minutes of March 3, 2008. Eric Roberts seconds. Tom Wilson, All in Favor. Motion carried.
UTILITY CLAIMS	Eric Roberts moved to approve Utility Claims. Tom Wilson seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in Favor. Motion carried.
CLERK’S REPORT	Tom Wilson moved to acknowledge the Clerk’s Report of February, 2008. Don VonderMeulen seconds. Eric Roberts, All in Favor. Motion carried.
COURTHOUSE PROJECT UPDATE	Eric Roberts mentioned last week the Judge sent us a bill in the amount of \$20,000.00, for work done by Weberdings. Several months ago it was his understanding that we would pay \$5,000.00 and the Judge would pay \$15,000.00 out of his user fees. This was contingent on if we didn’t have unseen cost on the project and didn’t need the contingency funding. Since then we have the replacement of the coolant piping for the air conditioning. Now the Judge is saying he will pay \$5,000.00 and we are to come up with the rest. Tom said he had talked to the Judge and he said this was included in the original price for the project. Eric reported we will be needing to come up with \$30,000.00 - \$50,000.00 extra to cover the cost of the total project. We would have been okay if it had not been for the coolant piping needing replaced.
HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT UPDATE	Level 3 Emergency went in effect on Friday evening at 7:00 P.M. and was lifted Saturday evening at 6:45 P.M. The Highway Department had (2) Dump Truck wreck during the Snow Emergency. One rolled over on its side, the oil drained out and broke a side mirror. The other a car had slid into it on School Road. No one was hurt. They had worked 14 hrs on Saturday. Wanting to tell the Highway Employees they did real well on getting the roads cleared.
RELAY FOR LIFE COOKOUT	The Relay for Life Team for the County is requesting the use of the Courthouse Lawn for a cookout on May 23, 2008 between 11:00 A.M. and 1:00P.M. Tom Wilson made motion to allow the use of the Courthouse Lawn for a cookout on May 23 rd . Eric Roberts seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in Favor. Motion carried.
PAYROLL	Tom Wilson made motion to accept payroll. Eric Roberts seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in Favor. Motion carried.
TOM RITZ	Tom Ritz reported he had submitted papers at last week meeting and asked Eric had looked at them. Was recorded without signatures. Tom Wilson said he reviewed and the 1989 text was signed. All ordinances between 1989 and 1996 were included in the reprint of the text. Mr. Ritz asked if the \$2,500.00 fine legal and in effect, as he sees it the 1995 text is not legal, 1995-17 is an Ordinance to increase fees for text only. He is wanting to see the meeting documents, wants a certified text. The other issue is gave utilities special exceptions.

HARRY
GRAVES

Harry Graves reported he appeared before the Commissioners on the Proposed Zoning Text, defraud the people. January 14th, 2008 appeared before the Board of Commissioners defrauds people out of their rights. Had you looked at it, are any of these people involved with the group. Where do I get a certified copy, do you have current code in the office. Also asked about the website.

ADJOURN

Tom Wilson motioned to adjourn. Eric Roberts seconds. Don VonderMeulen, All in favor. Motion carried.

Others Present:

Marty Brunner	Connie Brunner	Brad Nobbe	Aaron Nobbe	Stanley Monroe
Scott McDonough	Becky Oglesby	Carla Austin	Seth Whitecotton	Thomas Ritz
Cody Ritz	Joe Gillespie	Dick Schmid	Richie Schmid	Rene Stivers
Sam Schuck	Kurt Riedman	Roy N Hall	Harry Graves	Todd Zellers
George Hartman	Brent Roberts	Marty Hon		

AYE

NAY

Thomas E Wilson

Thomas E Wilson

Eric E Roberts

Eric E Roberts

Donald M VonderMeulen

Donald M VonderMeulen

ATTEST: _____
Susan A Jones, Auditor Franklin County